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New Mexico


The New Mexico benchmark revision was quite small for 2011, with employment up by a monthly average of 800 jobs or 0.1 percent. Private-sector employment was revised upward by 1,800 jobs, and government employment was revised downward by 1,000 jobs. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes.

In the private sector, goods-producing industries tended to add jobs, while service-providing industries mostly lost jobs, with the exception of professional & business services. The largest changes occurred in the construction, wholesale trade, retail trade, professional & business services, and educational & health services industries. Professional & business services revisions were substantial for all months of the year because of a large change that carried forward from October 2010. The goods-producing industries—construction, mining, and manufacturing—were all revised upward from their pre-benchmark levels, adding 2,200 jobs on average. Construction’s annual average over-the-year employment growth increased from a pre-benchmark negative 7.9 percent to a post-benchmark negative 2.0 percent.

The wholesale and retail trade industries were each revised significantly downward, combining for an average decrease of 2,900 jobs. Earlier estimates showed retail trade posting annual average over-the-year growth of 3.2 percent for 2011, but revised data lowered the gain to 0.2 percent. The revised data show wholesale trade down 2.0 percent for 2011, a sharp reversal from the 4.7 percent gain originally reported. Educational & health services employment was revised slightly downward, with annual average over-the-year growth dipping from 4.3 percent to 2.8 percent.

Albuquerque MSA

Albuquerque MSA total nonfarm employment was revised upward by a monthly average of 2,600 jobs or 0.7 percent for 2011, with the private sector up 2,800 jobs and the government sector down 200 jobs. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. The pre-benchmark annual average growth rate was reported at negative 0.6 percent for 2011 but revised upward to a post-benchmark growth rate of 0.0 percent. Four private-sector industries—construction, wholesale trade, educational & health services, and leisure & hospitality—had large level shifts during benchmarking. The construction industry’s annual average revisions totaled 1,500 jobs, accounting for more than half of the private-sector increase. The industry posted benchmarked over-the-year growth of negative 3.9 percent for 2011, improving from the negative 11.1 percent originally reported.

Original estimates for educational & health services showed the industry growing at an annual average of 0.8 percent over the year for 2011, well below recent years’ levels, but benchmarking increased the gain to 4.0 percent. Leisure & hospitality’s over-the-year growth was revised downward to 0.4 percent from 3.6 percent. An administrative reclassification moved a number of jobs from wholesale trade to professional & business services.
The three government components—federal, state, and local—were revised by relatively small percentages. Employment at the federal and state levels was benchmarked upward by a couple hundred jobs each, while local government employment was revised downward by an annual average of 600 jobs for 2011.

Farmington MSA

Farmington MSA total nonfarm employment was benchmarked up an annual average of 200 jobs in 2011, with the private sector up 600 jobs and the government sector down 400 jobs. Goods-producing industries sustained the largest revisions, increasing by an annual average of 700 jobs. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. The overall benchmark revision was 0.5 percent for 2011. Annual average over-the-year employment growth increased to 1.5 percent from a pre-benchmark level of 1.0 percent. The government decline comprised 200-job losses at both the federal and local levels.

Las Cruces MSA

Las Cruces MSA employment was revised upward by an annual average of 1,100 jobs for 2011, with nearly all industries posting increases. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. Only three industries—professional & business services (down 300), wholesale trade (down 100), and miscellaneous other services (down 100)—lost jobs during benchmarking. Most of the increases came in manufacturing; retail trade; transportation, warehousing & utilities; educational & health services; and local and state government. Employment expanded by 700 in educational & health services and 400 in manufacturing, with other gaining industries posting smaller increases. The 2011 benchmark revision averaged 1.6 percent, which pushed annual average over-the-year growth to 0.8 percent from a pre-benchmark level of negative 0.6 percent.

Santa Fe MSA

Santa Fe, down by an annual average of 1.0 percent for 2011, was the only MSA to lose jobs during benchmarking. Over-the-year employment growth was revised to negative 0.7 percent from the slightly positive 0.5 percent previously reported. Employment was benchmarked lower by an annual average of 600 jobs, with the private sector down 400 and the government sector down 200. The nearby chart provides monthly total nonfarm and total private employment changes. A generally weaker employment pattern was evident in most industries. Construction, manufacturing, retail trade, finance, educational & health services, leisure & hospitality, and miscellaneous other services were revised downward. The only industry sector revised upward was professional & business services. The decrease in government occurred entirely at the local level. Only three industries—educational & health services, up 400; professional & business services, up 200; and leisure & hospitality, up 100—posted over-the-year average employment increases in the benchmarked series. The Santa Fe MSA was the only MSA with negative year-over-year annual average employment growth for 2011.